



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI: HEALTH CARE REFORM MUST PRESERVE
PATIENT CHOICE OF PROVIDER AND PLAN***

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today said health care reform legislation must expand, not reduce, meaningful choices for patients, and should not force Americans to lose their existing coverage.

Enzi said he will work with Congress to protect Medicare Advantage plans, which serve millions of seniors.

“We should not pay for health care reform by slashing programs and eliminating choices,” Enzi said. “The President said repeatedly during his campaign that Americans who like the health insurance they have would keep their existing plans in his Administration. His budget proposal undercuts that promise. I plan to work with Congressional leaders to preserve choices for seniors in the Medicare program and for all Americans.”

At today’s Finance Committee hearing titled, “The President’s Fiscal Year 2010 Health Care Proposals,” Enzi said Congress must work to present a reform bill to the President that expands coverage, reduces costs, and gives patients real choices.

“We need to drive down costs and produce better value by promoting robust, free market competition that benefits patients and ensures higher quality, more affordable health care options,” Enzi said. “Vigorous competition is the best way to reduce costs, encourage American innovation and ingenuity, and protect the rights of patients to choose the physicians and health care providers that best meet their needs.”

Enzi also explained that there is no such thing as free healthcare, especially if it’s a government plan.

“Our meetings on health care reform have driven high expectations. My biggest concern is that many now believe the government will provide every need – and it will be free. Free is not possible. Whether it is a payment in premiums every month or something like the Medicare tax you see coming out of your paycheck, everyone but the very poor will pay for it. Our challenge is how can we help you pay less, while still giving you access to more.

“Government-run health care would rob patients of the right to select the plans and providers that meet their needs, take medical decisions out of doctors’ hands and place them into the hands of Washington bureaucrats, and come with a yet another multi-trillion dollar price tag to the American taxpayer.”

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